Put on a good game face
Hogs remain upbeat as adversity surrounds program. – Sports, 1C

The other fall foliage
Though low in stature, garden shrubs can provide bursts of color. – Style, 1E

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UA just cites 'convenience' in Long firing

Personnel records reveal solid performance reviews

AZIZA MUSA
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The former athletic director of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville was fired "for convenience," a university official said Friday.

That means the university can — and did — end Jeff Long's employment without cause or for any reason.

And as of Friday, little is still known as to what — other than the performance of the Razorback football team that is 4-6 overall and 1-5 in Southeastern Conference games this season and has a program-record five losses of 20 points or more — led to his firing after his nearly decade-long tenure at the campus.

In the termination letter, UA Chancellor Joe Steinmetz said that parting ways was "in the best interest of the athletics program and the University."

Long

INTERIM HEAD of athletics is upbeat on role in 'chain of command.' Page 1C.

University of Arkansas trustees earlier this week hinted that Steinmetz weighed many factors before ultimately deciding to let Long go, but none would speak of any other concerns they or anyone had with Long. And his personnel

See **LONG**, Page 2A

In the news

■ **William O'Neill**, 70, an Ohio Supreme Court justice who is running for governor, is being criticized for posting on social media that he has been "sexually intimate with approximately 50 very attractive females" in what he said was a swipe at the "media frenzy" over misconduct allegations against public officials.

■ **The Rev. Jesse Jackson**, the 76-year-old civil-rights leader, disclosed that he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2015 and now plans to "dedicate" himself to physical therapy for the neurological disorder.

■ **Daniel Hatley**, a British army corporal, said he was proud that a Belgian Malinois named Mali that he trained is the 69th recipient of the Dickin medal, billed as the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross, Britain's top award for valor, for saving the lives of troops during combat in Afghanistan in 2012.

■ **Andrew Cuomo**, the governor of New York, said it's "personally hurtful" that about 75,000 people have signed an online petition calling for the name of his late father, former Gov. Mario Cuomo, to be taken off a new $4 billion bridge over the Hudson River.

■ **Larry Crowson**, a Houston police lieutenant, said a man who led police on a 20-mile chase through the city and stopped to avoid a spike strip, got out of his car and danced until he was subdued by a police dog.

■ **Madeline Phillips** of Huntersville, N.C., said a roadside orange traffic cone that has a plant growing out of it and that her son mowed around over the summer, has been dubbed the "Cone Weed" by area residents and is now decorated with tinsel and ornaments and has its own Facebook fan page.

■ **Edward Cramer**, 69, and his wife, Audrey, 66, filed a lawsuit after police in Buffalo Township, Pa., kept them handcuffed for hours in a patrol car before setting them free after an insurance adjuster confused the couple's flowering hibiscus plants for marijuana.

■ **Madeleine Entine** can keep her therapy dog at an Ohio State University sorority house, a federal judge ruled, until the courts can sort out whether the dog must go because it inflames another student's allergies.

■ **Katharina Andresen**, 22, a student considered Norway's richest woman, with a fortune of $1.23 billion, was banned from driving for 13 months on a drunken-driving charge and fined $30,400, an amount that in Norway is based on a defendant's income.

ISIS' last Iraqi bastion falls

AP/OSAMA SAMI

Iraqi forces celebrate Friday in western Anbar province after retaking the town of Rawah, the last town in Iraq that was held by the Islamic State militant group. U.S.-led coalition forces supported the operation with intelligence, airstrikes and advisers. *Article, 6A*

Arkansas' out-of-job rate rises to 3.6%

Analyst notes lag in work seekers

DAVID SMITH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas' unemployment rate rose slightly to 3.6 percent in October from 3.5 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said Friday.

The national unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in October.

Arkansas' unemployment rate has come in at 3.4 percent or 3.5 percent since April.

Friday's report was mixed, said Michael Pakko, chief economist at the Arkansas Economic Development Institute at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

"The unemployment-rate side of things looks a little weak, but the [nonfarm] payroll employment side looks a little better," Pakko said.

The state's labor force fell by about 1,200, and the number of employed Arkansans dropped by about 1,900 in October compared with September. Numbers in both categories were up significantly since October 2016.

See **JOBS**, Page 4A

AP/EVAN VUCCI

President Donald Trump, who welcomed NCAA championship teams to the White House on Friday, earlier took to Twitter to lecture Democrats on "the power of lower taxes."

Trump says Democrats self-defeatist on tax bill

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Democrats could exert greater sway over the shape of tax-overhaul legislation if they weren't focused wholly on defeating it, President Donald Trump said in a Twitter post Friday, a day after the House passed its version of a $1.5 trillion overhaul of the tax code.

In a pre-dawn tweet, Trump said, "If Democrats were not such obstructionists and understood the power of lower taxes, we would be able to get many of their ideas into Bill."

COST OF settling Capitol Hill sexual harassment cases cited in call for policy change. Page 3A.

'BLUE SLIP' method of blocking judicial appointees quashed by panel chairman. Page 3A.

In another post on Twitter, the president lauded "Great numbers on Stocks and the Economy." He continued, "If we get Tax Cuts and Reform, we'll really see some great results."

Trump has been exultant since the House's passage Thursday of a tax bill that ranks as his and the Republican Party's top legislative priority. He visited the U.S. Capitol ahead of the vote to talk to fellow Republicans there.

With the passage of a tax bill in the House, Republicans have moved closer to delivering the first big legislative victory for Trump and their party.

The House bill passed on a mostly party-line 227-205 vote. Thorny problems await in the Senate, though, where a similar measure received a politically awkward verdict from nonpartisan congressio-

See **TAXES**, Page 7A

Storm-ravaged regions call $44B too little

White House request is 3rd since hurricanes, but lawmakers press for more

COMPILED BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — The White House on Friday sent Congress a $44 billion disaster aid request that's already under attack from lawmakers from hurricane-hit regions as way too small.

The request, President Donald Trump's third since hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria slammed the Gulf Coast and Caribbean, would bring the amount of money appropriated for disaster relief this fall close to $100 billion — and that's before most of the money to rebuild Puerto Rico's devastated housing stock and electric grid is included.

The new installment would add $24 billion to the government's chief disaster account and establish a new $12 billion grant program for flood-risk mitigation projects. Smaller amounts would go to small-business loans and to farmers suffering crop losses.

The request followed lobbying by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello, who pressed the White House for far more. There are sure to be attempts to add to the measure as it advances through the House and Senate.

"This request does not come close to what local officials say is needed," said Rep. Nita Lowey of New York, the top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee.

Even before the measure was delivered, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, called it "wholly inadequate." Cornyn worked in September to nearly double Trump's initial request for Harvey aid and has been battling with the White House ever since.

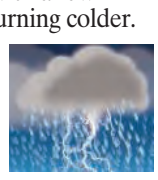
White House spokesman Sarah Huckabee Sanders responded, "I don't think $44 billion is a low amount, and my guess is if you asked any average citizen across this country, they wouldn't feel that it's low either."

She said Texas "should step up" and provide state money to the rebuilding ef-

See **AID**, Page 7A

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Windy with a few storms early, turning colder. **High** 69, winds south at 20-25 mph, gusting to 35 mph. **Tonight** Clear and cold. **Low** 38.



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Travelers for Clintons recall wrangling votes

EMMA PETTIT
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas' Democratic Party luminaries and political junkies filled the first floor of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies on Friday evening, swapping tales from a shared history as people reminisced on Bill Clinton's successful presidential campaigns.

The event was the second time that many members of the Arkansas Travelers, a group of longtime supporters of the Clintons, have all gotten together, said Sheila Galbraith Bronfman, who heads the Travelers.

In 1991, she and Skip Rutherford — now the dean of the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service — approached Bill Clinton about how to deploy hundreds of his friends and admirers. They were doctors, lawyers, and housewives who wanted to campaign but couldn't take a year off, Bronfman said.

CAMPAIGN CHIEF for Clinton's 1992 run talks about state of politics then, now. Page 1B.

So they traveled, on their own dime, to hand out pamphlets, ring doorbells and yell "like banshees" in 26 states, Bronfman said.

The Travelers cam-

See **TRAVELERS**, Page 7A

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/THOMAS METTHE

Angela Danovi (right) shows off her Clinton-Gore '96 campaign T-shirt to Marian and David Hodges during Friday's gathering at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in downtown Little Rock.